a study of the ROs of the public sector OMCs. It has been decided that the study may be completed within a period of two months from the date of commissioning. In accordance with this decision of the Government, IOC, on behalf of all the OMCs, has since entrusted the job of the study of the ROs to the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Sharing of profit on oil blocks

140. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has demanded that the center should share profit in the 50:50 ratio with the State where mineral oil and natural gas are produced in the blocks allotted under joint venture:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) (a) to (c) Some of the State Governments including the Government of Rajasthan had represented to the Central Government seeking at least 50 % sharing of profit petroleum and Production Level Payment (PLP) in respect of contracts signed by the Government for exploration blocks and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks in their respective States. The matter was referred to the 12th Finance Commission and based on its recommendations, the Central Government has accepted the recommendations to share Profit Petroleum and PLP arising out of contracts under the New Exploration Licensing Policy and Coal Bed Methane Policy with the concerned States in the ratio of 50:50, subject to the condition that this should be within the overall ceiling of transfers recommended by the 12th Finance Commission (38% of gross revenue).

Circulation of Expired Cylinders

†141. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are aware that in violation of the Explosives Act, several expired LPG cylinders are available in the market;

(b) whether the expired rusty gas cylinders have high possibility of accidents;

(c) the number of cases of expired gas cylinders of various gas companies that have come to the notice of Government and the action taken against them; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to stop the use of such cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard/spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

OMCs have not reported any case of expired gas cylinders from their marketing area of operations during the last three years.

Dividend declared by Oil Companies

142. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of central taxes/duties paid by the public sector oil companies to Government in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the amount of cess paid by ONGC and OIL during the same period; and

(c) the total dividend declared by the above companies during the above period, Company-wise?